(c) The target for completion of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) is December, 2004. More than 85% contracts are likely to be completed before this date. With the incentives provided for early completion, it is expected that all the contracts on GQ will be completed by this date. except for the work on 136 km which has been held up due to alignment problem/litigations.

Statement

Problem being faced in implementing Golden Quadrilateral Project

(i) Land Acquisition:

Various legal/procedural requirements which are required to be completed before acquisition of land are delaying the progress. There are large number of structures, removal of which is also a time taking exercise.

(ii) Removal of utilities:

To enable the contractors to take up construction of the road, the land has to be made free of all encumbrances including utilities like water pipelines, electric poles, etc. Shifting of such utilities can be taken up only after the land is acquired, cleared of structures and made available to the contractor.

(iii) Environmental/Forest clearance:

Environmental clearance (including forest clearance in respect of land recorded as forest) has to be obtained. Many of the stretches also have trees and obtaining permission for cutting of trees is also a time taking exercise.

(iv) Quarries:

Contractors are finding it difficult in some States to obtain, permission for quarrying for aggregates and this also delaying the progress of work in some packages.

(v) Law and Order**:**

Law and order problems created by anti-social elements are also hindering the work in some States. In some places the local people are preventing the construction work demanding charge of

alignment or additional facilities or higher compensation for the land acquired.

Steps taken to solve the problems:

In order to resolve the problems, the issues are taken up with the concerned State Governments at various levels. Besides, these matters are taken up by Minister for Road Transport and Highways with the concerned Chief Ministers to resolve the problems.

Condition of roads in Punjab

3073. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(d) whether it is a fact that road conditions are deteriorating in Punjab;

(e) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(a) if so, the details thereof and whether any repair work has been carried out; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) National Highways in Punjab are being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. Their survey and investigation is a continuing process.

(b) Road condition is being improved under periodic renewal, special repair and improvement of riding quality programme from plan and non-plan funds. During the last 4 years improvement of nearly 730 km. of National Highways has been carried out in Punjab.

(c) Does not arise.

Four-laning of Jallandhar-Wagha Border (via Amritsar) Road

3074. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to start and complete the work of four-laning of Jallandhar-Wagha Border (via Amritsar) road on priority basis;

(a) if so, the details thereof;

(b) by when, it is likely to be completed; and

(c) the expenditure to be spent on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(a) Four laning of 20 km stretch from Jallandhar towards Amritsar will be taken up under budgetary support by National Highways Authority of India, for which bids are being invited. For the remaining length of National Highways between Jallandhar and Wagha Border (via Amritsar) various alternatives of funding such as External Assistance, Private Sector Participation and budgetary support are under consideration.

(b) and (d) Expenditure to be incurred will be known after work is awarded. Target for completion of 4-laning of 20 Km. Stretch from Jallandhar side is June 2006. For the remainign length target is not finalised.

Accidents on Indian Roads

3075. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(c) whether it is a fact that international organisations have given India the dubious reputation of being the worst accident affected and accident-prone country in the world;

(d) whether Government have received such negative recognition internationally;

(a) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what are the steps proposed by Government to remove this negative impression?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) (B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.